

Financial Aid Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
(To be approved at the June 2, 2022 meeting)

Committee Members in Attendance Via <u>Virtual</u> Meeting Connection	Committee Members Absent
Denise Welch, Chair Rachelè Garrett, Vice-Chair DeChá Reid, THECB Rep Jackie Adler Ben Bholan Victoria Chen Bridgette Ingram Cecelia Jones Ed Kerestly, Past-Chair Melet Leafgreen Robert Merino, TASFAA Rep Holly Nolan Shonna Norton	Steven Peterson Joseph Ruiz Arnold Trejo Tevian Sides Thomas Ratliff Joy Thomas DeDe Gonzales Jase Kugiya Sal Ramirez Gilbert Zavala
Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting	Denise Welch, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Summary: **See handout for agenda item 1 for more information	
Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on Dec. 9, 2021	Denise Welch, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Minutes approved
Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No corrections were identified. **See handout for agenda item 2 for more information.	
Agenda Item 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business	DeChá Reid Senior Director
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Prior Business 	
Agenda Item 4. External Presentation: Certified Financial Aid Administrator Program	Shannon Crossland, Commission Chair Frank Phillips College
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Shannon Crossland presented on the Certified Financial Aid Administrator Program and provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program Design and Development ○ Accreditation ○ Involvement in the Development of the CFAA Program ○ Eligibility Requirements ○ Exam Experience ○ Resources ○ Remote Proctoring ○ Recertification **See handout for agenda item 4 for more information	
Agenda Item 5. External Presentation: Reskilling and Upskilling Program	Dr. Sheri Ranis, THECB-Workforce Education
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sheri Ranis presented on the Reskilling and Upskilling Program and provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant Program ○ Reskilling Funding Focus ○ Reskilling Program Highlights 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Eligible Credential Programs o Student Eligibility o Student Awards o Reskilling Additional Features <p>**See handout for agenda item 5 for more information</p>	
Agenda Item 6. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, THECB-External Relations
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<p>Update Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Wyatt provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Primary Elections were on Mar. 1, 2022 o Expect to see in 2-3 weeks the Lt. Governor and the Speaker will issue interim charges for the committees; these are specific items that the Governor will want to see in the next session o During the spring and summer, committees will meet in interim hearings to consider the interim charges. The higher education committee will meet. o Each committee will issue an interim report based on findings during the interim hearings. The interim reports will include recommendations. o THECB will stay busy with the interim hearing meetings o THECB will need to develop the LAR in the coming months and report back to the committee. 	
Agenda Item 7. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Dr. Charles Conterò-Puls, Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<p>Update Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Charles Conterò-Pulse presented the THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority and provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o THECB Strategic Architecture o Randomized Controlled Trail o Technological Infrastructure <p>**See handout for agenda item 7 for more information.</p>	
Agenda Item 8. Update: TASFA Subcommittee	Bridgette Ingram, Subcommittee Chair and Claudette Jenks, Director, College Readiness and Success
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<p>Update Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgette Ingram, Leah Smalley and Claudette Jenks presented the Online TASFA and provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continuing TASFA programming o Testing in progress o Collaborating with vendors and the TASFA workgroup on file layout o Setting up institutions in MoveIt o Communication about online TASFA sent to institutions and school districts <p>**See handout for agenda item 8 for more information</p>	
Agenda Item 9. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<p>Update Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dede Gonzales provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Update on Online TASFA o FAD Data Modernization o Update on Office of Student Financial Aid Programs o Recent Memos o Upcoming Memos o Upcoming Deadlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Authority to Transfer Process o FAD Certification Process o FAS Webcast <p>**See handout for agenda item 8 for more information</p>	

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Agenda Item 10. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Arnold Trejo, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arnold Trejo provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serving as an advisor in the TASFAA Legislative Committee ○ He has been invited to future TASFAA Legislative meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ March 31, June 23 and September 15 	
Agenda Item 11. Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrator’s (TASFAA)	Robert Merino, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Merino provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional trainings are in progress throughout the State of Texas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ March 1 – Houston at San Jacinto College – 56 registered ▪ March 3 – San Marcos at Texas State University – 43 registered ▪ March 23 – El Paso at El Paso Community College – 41 registered ▪ March 25 – DFW at Collin County College – 66 registered ▪ March 31 – Lubbock at Lubbock Christian University – 47 registered ○ TASFAA is offering a virtual event at the end of March ○ New Aid Office Workshop registration is now open 	
Agenda Item 12. Update: High School District	Ben Bholan, Arlington ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Bholan and Shonna Norton provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISDs are struggling to get students to complete FAFSA’s. Current data shows that more students have completed FAFSA this current year than last year; believe it is due to the new high school graduation. Other districts are seeing the same trend. ○ Enrollment is down this school year ○ ISDs are very excited with the online TASFA ○ ISDs are hosting evening FAFSA events to promote the completion ○ There are challenges with the TSI requirements; it is a barrier with students 	
Agenda Item 13. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Yes/Motion Passed
Update Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeCha Reid provided information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effective March 1, the agency reduced the interest rate on certain CAL loans from 5.25% to 3.75%. These are loans made between August 2011 and October 2013 and impacts of 6,500 loans. We were able to reduce the interest rate due to the recent interest rate changes. On April 1, THECB will reduce approximately 5,500 loans (reduction of 0.25 – 5.25% to 5.00% and 450% to 4.25%). All borrowers who were impacted were notified. ○ The following memos were recently released: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ B.1.10 Strategy Funds Request released on 3/1/2022: This announcement outlined the process to request the additional B.1.10 funds through an online form. Schools must utilize all the original allocation before requesting funds from the B.1.10 strategy. Changes to student count are done through the Grant Payment Portal. ▪ A flyer for the Monthly Webcast was released on 3/1/2022 with the topics of discussion. An additional webcast was scheduled on 3/8/2022 at 1:30 p.m. (Central Standard Time). ▪ FY2022 FAD Cycle One opened on 2/28/2022. There were some delays in receiving the reports. The issues were resolved and can continue to resubmit the FAD file. Cycle one does not require reconciliation, however, THECB encourages schools to review their data and budget totals to assist with future reconciliation process for cycle three. Schools are encouraged to submit a FAD file in enough time to work through any errors. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Financial Aid Opt-in/out released on 2/22/2022: All institutions are required to complete the Opt-in/Opt-Out form by 3/11/2022 to participate in the state financial aid programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Aide Exemption (EAE) • Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) • Work-Study Student Mentorship (WSMP) <p>Institutions that do not submit an Opt-In/Opt-Out form by the deadline will not be included in the allocation calculation process for the 2023 Fiscal Year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming deadlines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FAAC nominations is due on 3/11/2022 ○ State Opt-In/Opt-Out form is due 3/11/2022 ○ Good Neighbor nomination forms are due 3/15/2022 • SFAP accomplishments since the last FAAC meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We were able to generate almost 40,000 IRS 1098—E tax statements for borrows and they were mailed as of 1/31/2022. 	
Agenda Item 14. Discussion Topic: Feedback on how schools administering Reskilling and Upskilling	Denise Welch, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Discussion Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three schools are participating in the program • TSTC is on target to wrap-up the spending on the grant funds • Stephen F. Austin has not awarded any funds to students • Panola College was able to spend funds in the fall but was not as successful in the spring term. 	
Agenda Item 15. Discussion Topic: Feedback on the decrease in loan borrowing	DeChà Reid, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Discussion Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFAP has seen a decline in the number of borrowers based on loan data year-over-year. Are students less needy, higher federal loans that offset our state loan programs, or is it other aid that is taking the place of loan borrowing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less students on campus. Students are virtual and do not need as many loan funds and charges are being covered through grants and scholarships, along with federal funds ○ Students do not want loans and are aware of the debt. Also, students are living at home to cut back on costs. ○ Graduate students stated that the GradPlus process is easier, and CAL seems a little more challenging. 	
Agenda Item 16. Discussion Topic: Feedback on creating a succession plan	Rachelè Garrett, Vice Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Discussion Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback concerning the NASFAA article: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loss of employees to retirement and only able to hire a smaller percentage ○ Looking at the remaining staff and is there potential to retire ○ Staff are leaving for positions outside of financial aid 	
Agenda Item 17. Discussion Topic: Feedback for Future Meetings	Denise Welch, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Discussion Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASFAA for the SAI-Bridgette Ingram <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the agency doing with SAI? 	
Agenda Item 18. Adjournment	Denise Welch, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjournment at 12:46 p.m. 	

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